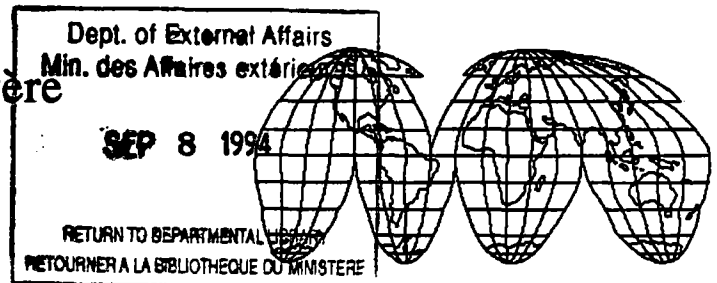


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Le commerce et
la politique étrangère
cette semaine

April 14 to 20, 1994



DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE:
PRESS RELEASES:

OECD Secretary-General Paye to Visit Canada

April 20, 1994, No. 76

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet announced that Jean-Claude Paye, Secretary-General of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), will visit Ottawa, April 21-22. Mr. Paye's program will include meetings with Mr. Ouellet, the Governor of the Bank of Canada, Gordon Thiessen, as well as with officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and the Department of Finance. Canada is a founding member of the OECD, a forum that brings together 25 of the world's largest industrialized democracies.

Canada Re-Elected to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights

April 20, 1994, No. 75

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet welcomes Canada's re-election, for a third consecutive three-year term, to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. The election took place at the meeting of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, in New York City. Canada has played an active role in the development and strengthening of UN human rights principles and machinery. The Canadian government has placed particular emphasis on the evolution of effective UN human rights institutions, and played a prominent role in the creation of the new office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the recent establishment of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women.

Ouellet to Speak at the Inauguration of the Jean Monnet Chair at the University of Montréal

April 20, 1994, No. 74

Minister of Foreign Affairs André Ouellet will deliver an address on Canada-Europe relations on April 25 at a University of Montréal symposium marking the establishment of the Jean Monnet Chair in European Integration. The University of Montréal is the first institution outside Europe to be awarded a Monnet Chair by the Commission of the European Communities. "We have witnessed momentous changes in Europe in recent years, but through them all Canada's links with Europe have remained strong and important. The establishment of the Jean Monnet Chair is an opportunity to celebrate our past relationship and look to the future," said Mr. Ouellet. The Jean Monnet Chair is named in honour of one of the principal architects of European unity. Its function is to foster the dissemination of information, professional training, university instruction and academic research on European integration.

MacLaren Announces Visit of Chinese Vice-Premier Zou Jiahua

April 15, 1994, No. 73

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, announced that His Excellency Zou Jiahua, Vice-Premier of the People's Republic of China, will make an official visit to Canada April 18 to 27. The visit will focus on trade and economic relations between Canada and China, and will provide the opportunity to discuss other aspects of the bilateral relationship.

MacLaren Signs the Uruguay Round Final Act

April 15, 1994, No. 72

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, in Marrakesh, Morocco, joined representatives from about 120 governments in signing the Final Act embodying the results of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. Subject to approval by Parliament, Mr. MacLaren's signature indicates that Canada accepts fully the results of the Uruguay Round, the largest and most complex international trade negotiations ever undertaken. "I cannot overstate the importance of this agreement," Mr. MacLaren said. "The Round establishes the World Trade Organization (WTO), giving Canada and the world community a powerful new vehicle to steer away from the old unilateral and protectionist habits of a few major countries. Canada played a critical role in proposing and developing the concept for the WTO. It will enable us to move in a new direction, where the principles of fairness and mutual advantage take on a new meaning. It is an achievement in which Canadians should take pride."

FINANCE:

Madame Chairman, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development's (EBRD) natural focus is in promoting the development of competitive private sectors. Over the course of the past year, the growth and the direction of its activities have been extremely productive. The number of projects approved by the Bank and the value of loan and equity investments has doubled; the amount of money disbursed has more than tripled, the Bank's administrative budget has been brought under control and; the Bank is very close to attaining the 60/40 ratio of private sector to public sector operations set out in its Articles of Agreement. As the Bank grows, however, it will need to grapple with a number of additional challenges. The first challenge is administrative efficiency and sound management ... A second challenge is operational effectiveness ... A third challenge will be to better focus the Bank's activities as it becomes active in all countries of operations. Another focus of attention will obviously be sustainable development and the Bank's environmental mandate ... Canada's participation in the EBRD is a key element of our broader strategy to support reform in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Notes for Remarks by the Honourable Doug Peters Secretary of State for Finance to the Third Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (St Petersburg, Russia, April 19, 1994).